

The plan followed by the authors approaches the subject from the pathological rather than the anatomical point of view. This is a feature in vogue in two other great treatises on urology: the *Encyclopædia of Urology* by Pousson and Desnos, and the *Treatise on Urology* by Legueu. With the latter work, which embodies the teaching of the Necker Clinic, the volumes under review have much in common, but compare most favourably with it, and in many respects are much superior to it.

A special chapter is devoted to the rôle of obstructive factors in urology under the newly coined term of "obstructive uropathy"; factors which may be found at any point from the meatus of the urethra to the kidneys. This section appears to be capable of a greater extension than the authors have given it, particularly with regard to factors outside the urinary tract, equally potent in producing the uropathy. Excellent attention has been devoted to measures for the pre-operative preparation of patients suffering from this uropathy, measures which have been so effective in reducing the mortality of operations for the removal of obstructing factors. Noteworthy is the reduction of the mortality of the operation of prostatectomy to less than 1 per cent.

Special interest will be evinced in Young's treatment of the perineal field, in which his work has been outstanding. The sections dealing with benign and malignant conditions of the prostate gland, and the results of radium treatment of malignant conditions are exceptionally good.

Operative treatment is dealt with in separate chapters to avoid unnecessary repetition.

The volumes are creditable examples of the printer's skill. They are given additional value by the clear illustrations, over 1000 in number, with many excellent colour plates. Original drawings, microphotographs, skiagrams are all excellently reproduced. Most of the drawings are the work of W. P. Didusch. They lend a distinctive character to the work.

There are numerous text-books and treatises of urology; not all of them are great; some could be spared. This most recent treatise ranks with the best.

F. S. PATCH

A Bipolar Theory of Living Processes. George W. Crile, M.D. 405 pages. Price \$5.50. The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto, 1926.

Biological research at the present time becomes inevitably involved in principles of physics and chemistry, and the more fundamental the investigation the greater the demand on these subjects. Under these circumstances it was expected that sooner or later a daring attempt would be made to base a theory of living processes on the available data in these subjects. The present book is such an attempt. The thesis is made that the essence of life lies in the elaboration and disposition of electrical forces; that such an arrangement is apparent in the simple cell, and that, by extension, an elaboration of this scheme underlies the activity of the complete organism. The author is very exacting in the stated demands he makes of his theory. Not only is obvious pathological function a manifestation of variation and distribution of electric potential (particularly between cerebrum and liver), but so too are to be explained the phenomena of reproduction and inheritance, or psychical processes, memory and so on, and clearly of pathological departures from normal. The dissertation in foundation and construction is highly conjectural and there will be agreement with the author's admission that "final proof is lacking regarding practically every point." Quotations from the work of others are adopted and aligned in support of the argument, and the original experimental contributions offered consist of researches on staining intensity, on temperature changes and on alterations in electrical conductivity. The publication may arouse a criticism in which practically every branch of biological investigation may join, but the onus of facing the challenge rests primarily on the

bio-physicist. On the other hand it remains to be seen exactly what interest the theory excites. It is doubtful if the average general practitioner will feel himself disposed or competent to review it critically. It may bear fruit by suggestion or otherwise but it is clear that a prodigious amount of work with considerable advance in knowledge will be necessary before the thesis can be at all satisfying.

G. SPENCER MELVIN

Bone Sarcoma. E. A. Codman, M.D. 91 pages, 24 illustrations. Price \$2.00. Paul B. Hoeber, New York, 1925.

This booklet of less than one hundred pages represents the suggestions as regards nomenclature of the committee appointed by the American College of Surgeons some years ago. The classification of bone tumours has been very much simplified and made more comprehensible by this committee and forms a very satisfactory working basis for clinicians, pathologists and radiologists to whom the book is particularly addressed. The text is printed in unusually pleasing type and is profusely illustrated to show variations in the x-ray and microscopic pictures of the bone lesions described. Differential diagnosis is clearly though briefly discussed and treatment and prognosis indicated.

Simple presentation of bone sarcoma to students has always offered great difficulty to clinicians and teachers of surgery will find this little volume of the utmost value.

A. MOORHEAD

The Cerebro-Spinal Fluid in Clinical Diagnosis. J. Godwin Greenfield, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P. and E. Arnold Carmichael, M.B., Ch.B. 272 pages. The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto, 1925.

This volume is a valuable contribution to the literature pertaining to the cerebro-spinal fluid. Within the last few years there has been an increasing interest in this body-humour which has the important function of lubricating the great dynamo that activates the currents of the thoughts and deeds of mankind. The outstanding feature of the volume is the flare of original observation displayed by the authors. There is no smacking of the scissors and pastepot and it is refreshing to feel that the information gleaned is based upon cold, hard, clinical facts. The main development of the subject has been pre-eminently along biochemical lines.

The arrangement of subject matter is somewhat different from that of previous treatises and on the whole it is believed that the introductory claim of the authors in this respect has been substantiated. The three sub-divisions are clear cut and help the clinician or pathologist to refer readily to any particular aspect of the subject that may arise for consideration. Especially welcome is the carefully prepared second part dealing with the "cerebro-spinal fluid in certain diseases". This is more complete and more satisfactory from the clinician's point of view than anything that has previously found its way into English print.

While the authors are to be complimented on a highly creditable volume, based upon original research and arranged scientifically, it would be unjust to omit mentioning one notable defect. There is a very apparent lack of diagrammatic appeal in the volume. The modern medicine man is keen on visualizing diagrammatically. Form and colour add greatly to the presentation of scientific facts and strike home with keen effect upon the memory and imagination. It is hoped that the second edition of this text will be embellished in such manner as to appeal more strongly to a fundamental demand of the reader.

The book will be found valuable in medical libraries and on the shelves of pathologists and consulting physicians.

EGERTON L. POPE

ERRATA

In our notice of Sir E. Sharpey-Schafer's work on *The Endocrine Organs* we omitted to state that it was Part ii only which was reviewed.